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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 3 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As the representative of the State that is currently presiding over the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the States members of CSTO of 27 November 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 156.

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 3 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization: the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan

The States members of the organization, established pursuant to the Treaty on Collective Security of 15 May 1992, affirm the central role of the United Nations in mobilizing the international community in the campaign against international terrorism and consider the constant expansion of joint efforts in this area to be one of its priorities.

Terrorism remains a direct threat to international security and stability, despite the growing counter-terrorism activities of the international community. The recent terrorist acts in Saudi Arabia and Istanbul are further proof of this.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, which have practical experience in counter-terrorism, remain determined to spearhead efforts to combat this scourge. The Treaty indeed proved to be necessary in connection with the dangerous developments in Afghanistan between 1996 and 1998 and subsequent efforts to respond to threats from terrorists groups in southern Kyrgyzstan and in other Central Asian regions, as well as following the events of 11 September 2001.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization is now building the appropriate counter-terrorism capacity. Collective rapid-deployment forces, drawn from the armed forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, have been established to cover Central Asia. The Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Council of Ministers of Defence are operational. The Committee of Secretaries of the Security Council is developing practical measures to counter terrorism and related illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, illegal migration and transnational organized crime. Arrangements are being made for the mutual use of relevant infrastructures of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization to carry out counter-terrorism measures. The intelligence services and counter-terrorist divisions are increasing their combat readiness; joint exercises are being conducted; and coordinated plans of action are being drawn up. An agreement on a unified system of technical protection of railways of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization was signed on 28 April 2003. Efforts are under way to harmonize countries' national legislation in the area of counter-terrorism. The Collective Security Treaty Organization is developing cooperation with the relevant organs of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the groundwork has been laid for contacts with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and other international security organizations. The Collective Security Treaty Organization meets the requirements to actively participate in the system of cooperation among regional organizations evolved by the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council.

Based on international experience, we believe that effective efforts by the international community to combat terrorism at this stage might include such measures as:

- Creating a climate of rejection of terrorism in the world;
- Building confidence and consolidating the anti-terrorist coalition;
- Further developing cooperation among the law enforcement, military and intelligence services of member States, including with a view to preventing weapons of mass destruction from being used in terrorist acts;
- Expanding cooperation to cut off sources of funding to terrorists;
- Developing and streamlining the international and national legal bases for countering terrorism;
- Increasing cooperation among regional institutions in the campaign against terrorism;
- Promoting quicker and eventually more universal ratification of all United Nations counter-terrorism conventions;
- Completing the drafting of a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention and convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism;
- Beginning practical work on creating a global system to respond to new threats, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/145, which was adopted by consensus and sponsored by many States from the Commonwealth of Independent States as well as several other countries;
- Coordinating the activities of international regional organizations under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council.

We affirm that the Collective Security Treaty Organization stands ready to participate constructively in the discussion of these and possible other measures at the United Nations and other international forums.